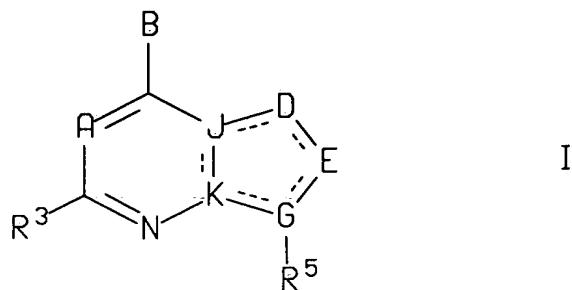


9. A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

the dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

A is nitrogen or CH, or CCH<sub>3</sub>

B is -NR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>, -CR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, -C(=CR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>11</sup>)R<sup>1</sup>, -NHCR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, -OCR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, -SCR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, -CR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>10</sup>NHR<sup>1</sup>, -CR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>10</sup>OR<sup>1</sup>, -CR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>10</sup>SR<sup>1</sup> or -COR<sup>2</sup>;

J and K are each independently nitrogen or carbon and both J and K are not nitrogens ;

D and E are each selected, independently, from nitrogen, CR<sup>4</sup>, C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen, CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>6</sup> and NR<sup>8</sup> ;

G is nitrogen or carbon;

the ring containing D, E, G, K, and J in formula I may be a saturated or unsaturated 5-membered ring and may optionally contain one or two double bonds and may optionally contain from one to three heteroatoms in the ring and may optionally have one or two C=O or C=S groups;

R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -OC(=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -NHCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CONH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CON(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CN, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -SO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl) and -SO<sub>2</sub>N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), wherein each of the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl groups in the foregoing R<sup>1</sup> groups may optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds;

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl which may optionally contain from one to three double or triple bonds, aryl or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)aryl, wherein said aryl and the aryl moiety of said (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>

alkylene)aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrrolopyridyl, oxazolyl and benzoxazolyl; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl), wherein one or two of the carbon atoms of said cycloalkyl and the 5 to 8 membered cycloalkyl moieties of said (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl) may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ<sup>2</sup> wherein Z<sup>2</sup> is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, benzyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkanoyl, and wherein each of the foregoing R<sup>2</sup> groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, hydroxy and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, or with one substituent selected from bromo, iodo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), amino, -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -NHCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CONH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CON(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -SH, -CN, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -SO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl) and -SO<sub>2</sub>N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl);

-NR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup> or CR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>R<sup>10</sup> may form a saturated 3 to 8 membered carbocyclic ring which may optionally contain from one to three double bonds and wherein one or two of the ring carbon atoms of such 5 to 8 membered rings may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ<sup>3</sup> wherein Z<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, benzyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkanoyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkylene)-O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkylene)-OH, or -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl);

each R<sup>4</sup> is, independently, hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkylene)-OH, CF<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>SCH<sub>3</sub>, nitro, -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)H or -C(=O)O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl);

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R<sup>8</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>5</sup> is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl and wherein each of the foregoing R<sup>5</sup> groups is substituted with from one to four substituents R<sup>13</sup> wherein one to three of said substituents may be selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl and -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl) and one of said substituents may be selected from bromo, iodo, formyl, OH,

(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-OH, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -CN, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -OCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-S-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COOH, -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl) and -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), and wherein each of the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl moieties in the foregoing R<sup>5</sup> groups may optionally have one or two double bonds;

R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, halo (e.g., chloro, fluoro, iodo or bromo), hydroxy, -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -OCF<sub>3</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH or -CH<sub>2</sub>O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl);

R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen, hydroxy, methoxy or fluoro;

R<sup>11</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; and

with the proviso that: a) when both J and K are carbons and D is CR<sup>4</sup> and E is nitrogen, then G can not be nitrogen; (b) when both J and K are carbons and D and G are nitrogens, then E can not be CR<sup>4</sup> or C=O or C=S; (c) when both J and K are carbons and D and E are carbons, then G can not be nitrogen; (d) when G is carbon, it must be double banded to E; and (e) in the ring containing J, K, D, E and G, there can not be two double bonds adjacent to each other; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds.

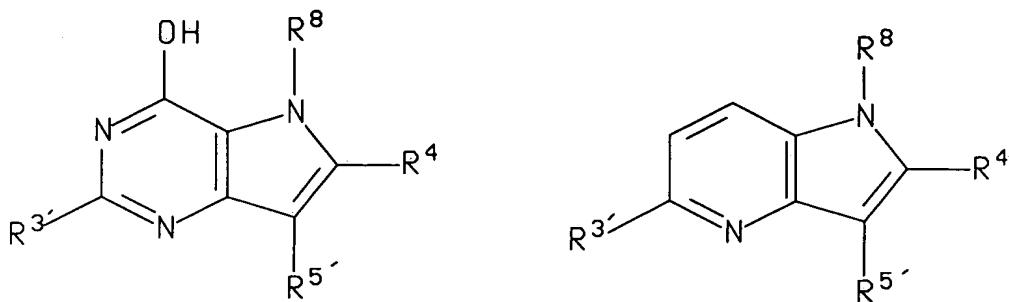
10. Compounds according to claim 9 wherein A is CH, J and K are carbon and D, E, and G are nitrogen.

11. Compounds according to claim 9 wherein J and D are nitrogen, and K and G are carbon, and E is CH, CCH<sub>3</sub> or CC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>.

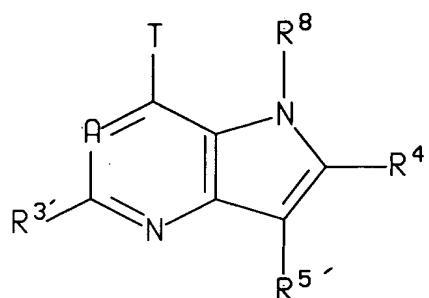
18. A method of treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a CRH binding protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim 9.

19. A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising a CRH binding protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. A compound of the formula



or



wherein R<sup>3</sup>N is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, R<sup>7</sup>N is hydrogen, methyl, chloro, bromo, -COOH or -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), T is chloro, bromo, iodo or triflate, R<sup>8</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl and R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkylene)-OH, CF<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>SCH<sub>3</sub>, nitro, -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)H or -C(=O)O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl);

23. A compound according to claim 1 wherein said compound is:

7-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine;  
[2,5-Dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]- (1-ethyl-propyl)-amine;

(1-Ethyl-propyl)-[5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-amine;

7-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-2,5-dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine;

[2,5-Dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-ethyl-propyl-amine;

[6-Bromo-5-bromomethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]- (1-ethyl-propyl)-amine;

(1-Ethyl-propyl)-[5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-amine;

[6-Bromo-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]- (1-ethyl-propyl)-methyl-amine;

7-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridine;

4-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyr imidine;

( $\pm$ )-2,5-Dimethyl-4-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

2,5-Dimethyl-4-(S)-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

2,5-Dimethyl-4-(1-propyl-butoxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine; or

4-sec-Butylsulfanyl-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such compound.